

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)

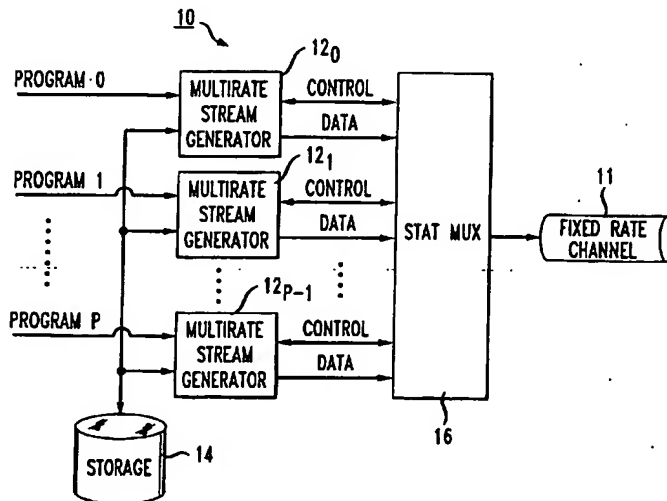
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/025405 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F (74) Agents: TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.; Thomson Licensing Inc., Suite #200, Two Independence Way, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/028275 (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 10 September 2003 (10.09.2003) (25) Filing Language: English (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/409,645 10 September 2002 (10.09.2002) US (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
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- Published:
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VIDEO ON DEMAND SERVER SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A Video-on-Demand Server architecture (100, 200, 300) transmits a plurality of pre-coded programs having different bit rates across a fixed bandwidth channel (11). For each program, a generator (120-12P-1, 110, 210) generates a plurality of different bit rate representations for each program. Each generator also provides control information at each of a plurality of successive time windows T for each bit rate representation. The control information provides a bit rate and a quality measure during each time window T. The control information enables a statistical multiplexer (16, 160, 260) to select a bit rate representation for each program during each time window T to maximize the quality of the selected representations while not exceeding the total available channel capacity.

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10/527125
 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 MAR 2005

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/28275

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04N 7/173

US CL : 725/87, 90, 91, 95, 96

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 725/87, 90, 91, 95, 96

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,385,771 B1 (GORDON) 07 May 2002 (07.05.2002), Figs. 1-6, and column 2, line 58 to column 3, line 25.	1-3, 10-17, 22.
Y	US 6,246,695 B1 (SEAZHOLTZ et al.) 12 June 2001 (12.06.2001), column 2, line 50 to column 3, line 64.	1-3, 10-17, 22
Y	US 5,812,786 A (SEAZHOLTZ) 22 September 1998 (09.22.1998), column 2, line 46 to column 3, line 64.	1-3, 10-17, 22.
Y	US 5,926,649 A (MA et al.) 20 July 1999 (20.07.1999), column 6, line 30 to column 7, line 18.	1-3, 10-17, 22.
Y	US 5,940,738 A (RAO) 17 August 1999 (17.08.1999), column 2, line 35 to column 4, line 35.	1-3, 10-17, 22.

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 May 2004 (13.05.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 JUN 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US

Commissioner for Patents

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/28275

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST.

Search terms: VOD, video on demand, different bit rate, variable rate, fixed bandwidth, bandwidth, channel, program, signal to noise, S/N, SNR, ratio, index, pre-coded, quality, encoder, digital, stream/streaming, and peak signal.